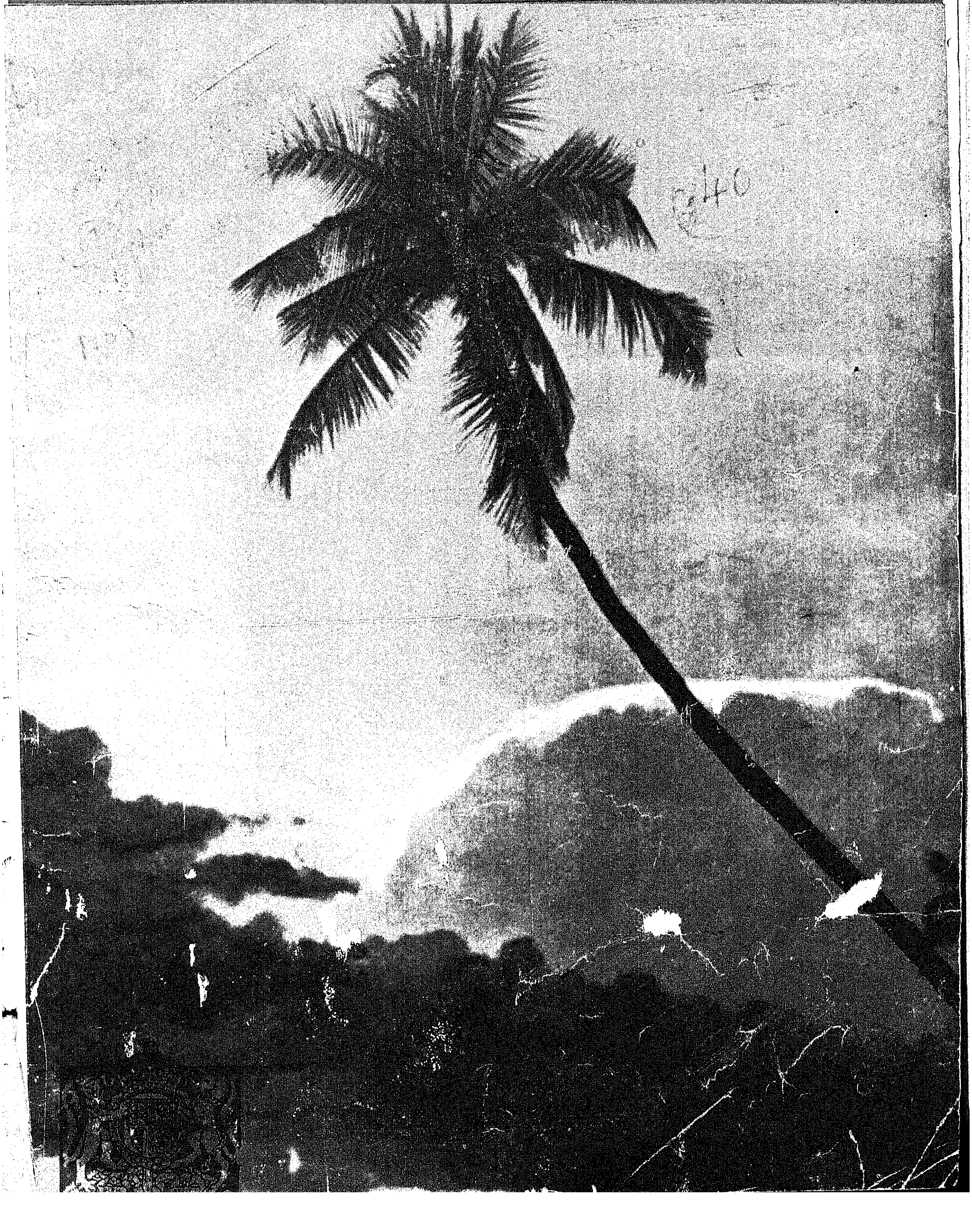
# MADRAS INFORMATION



## MAIN FEATURES :

(1) Editorial Notes

(2) Some Press Notes of the Madras Government

(3) Prohibition

(4) The Food Front

(5) Cottage Industries

(6) Khadi Scheme.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The object of *Madras Information* is to give a brief record of the Madras Government's activities and to educate the public opinion on the Government's policies.

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# MADRAS INFORMATION

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VOL. I No. I — WE SEEK TO SERVE AND NOT TO COMPETE — October 5, 1946

# NOTES AND COMMENTS

IN bringing out the first issue of *Madras Information,* we desire to emphasize a few preliminary considerations. *Madras Information* is intended to be primarily a record of the activities of the Government of Madras; it will provide to the reader from fortnight to fortnight a compendious account of the Government's work in the various departments. A Government deriving its existence from and responsible to a popularly elected legislature should find in the ceaseless promotion of public welfare not only its sole justification but its imperative duty. It can derive its strength solely from the unstinted and intelligent support that public opinion will accord to it. It must strive diligently to explain itself to the people and seek as diligently to induce public opinion to explain itself to it in turn. The daily press has been and is indeed helpful in giving publicity to most of the materials in the form of press notes, press *communiques,* Government Orders and so on, issued by and on behalf of the Government. But with restrictions and limitations imposed by newsprint shortages and with the numerous and irresistible demands on their space made by different items of news, the daily newspapers do not always find it possible to accord to Government viewpoints the quantum of publicity they require.

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*Madras Information* will serve to fill the gap in these respects. An attempt will be made, besides, to educate public opinion on the various aspects of Government's policies, schemes and programmes, which is so essential under conditions in which Governmental activity tends towards an ever increasing expansion consequent on the assumption of office by a popular Government; and administrative complexity tends to accentuate with the accentuation of departmental activities. It is intended as part of this programme of educating public opinion to secure and publish articles written by experts and by other persons competent to write them on the diverse problems that are engaging Government's attention. A section of the magazine will be set apart as a public forum in which an effort will be made to answer enquiries and queries by members of the public seeking clarification of Governmental policies or enactments. *Madras Information,* therefore, is expected to serve a definite purpose and fill a vacuum in the Government's publicity scheme which recognisedly exists. We seek to serve and not to compete. We seek to present facts and explanations of facts and not to cloud issues. In our task we seek the help, assistance and co-operation of everyone willing to render it and hope that these will be accorded ungrudgingly and abundantly.

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On the 1st of October, a great social experiment to which the present Government stood committed by its election pledges had been inaugurated, when simultaneously in eight districts prohibition had been ushered into being. On another page is published the text of the broadcast on the subject made by the Hon'ble Sri T. Prakasam, Prime Minister, which clearly, though briefly, expounds Government's standpoint *vis-a-vis* prohibition and which gives also a resume of some of the more important measures that are being taken to ensure the success of prohibition. The Madras Government can legitimately take credit for the fact that they have given a lead in this respect to the other provincial Governments. While in some pro-

vinces prohibition schemes are still being considered, in Madras we are going rapidly ahead with the scheme. It required resolution of a particularly high order for the ministry to declare eight districts or nearly a third of the presidency dry at one stroke and to be prepared to sacrifice nearly Rs. 5 crores of revenue. But as the Premier pointed out, the social and economic advantages accruing from prohibition in the shape of a large number of persons being rescued from the tentacles of a powerful demon far outweigh the loss of revenue or the administrative difficulties implicit in the enforcement of the measure. No measure of social reform of this magnitude can either be introduced or executed with success without the willing, active and purposeful co-operation of the general public. Much less can it be made a success without that psychology for self-improvement being systematically induced among the people for whose benefit the reform is conceived. Government's scheme provides for attractions to enable the ex-addicts to forget their addiction to drink and also for other ameliorative measures calculated to promote the qualities of self-help and self-improvement among them. Prohibition is a reform which, as the debates in the Legislative Assembly disclosed, is capable of evoking and enlisting all-party support and if the enthusiasm so conspicuously evident in the Assembly debates is translated into a dynamic drive in favour of the measure by all parties, its success is doubly assured.

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Another big scheme sponsored by the Government had also been inaugurated on October 2, namely, the Khadi Development and Village Reconstruction scheme. The Khadi scheme which has been described by Gandhiji as being designed "to clothe the entire province with it (Khadi) in time," is proposed to be tried on an intensive scale in eight firkas in the presidency in the first instance and will gradually be extended to the other firkas selected for intensive rural development activity, and ultimately it may gather such irresistible internal momentum that it will automatically be extended to other parts of the presidency too. Criticisms of the scheme from friendly and of course from unfriendly critics have been many and even persistent. But to all these critics the only answer that can be given at present is: Wait and see and do not prejudge. At the moment a powerful *raison de etre* that can be advanced in support of the scheme is that there is so much scarcity of cloth particularly in the villages and so much evidence of the normal sources of cloth supply being pitifully inadequate to satisfy the requirements of the population that Khadi development has to be regarded as a god-send to relieve the scarcity felt. And since the Government, under the guidance of the Premier, is prone to proceed cautiously and under expert advice in this matter, the prospects of success of the scheme may be regarded as assured.

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The Firka Development scheme is of more ambitious and comprehensive scope and is inspired by the motive of recapturing for the villages and the village communities in the country the ideal of self-sufficiency which once characterized their existence. Most of us who are acquainted with the dilapidated and disorganised village economy, village life and village public health of the present day and have also read accounts of the socially and commercially peaceful, and economically self-sufficient and self-supporting villages which once dotted the landscape of India and which used to be the pride of the country, can not only visualise the contrast between the two pictures but will also be impressed with the necessity for the kind of drive that is now contemplated. The scheme is a big one; it is equally unique also. If a great amount of determined and sustained and selfless work has to be accomplished to make the scheme a real success, great too will be the advantages in the shape of national and communal welfare that will flow from it. That it is proposed to enlist the aid of electrical power to implement the rural development scheme particularly in the starting and working of a number of cottage industries is an indication that our ancient ideal of village self-sufficiency is proposed to be broad-based on the solid foundation of a modern innovation like electricity.

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Vigorous activity marked the recent visit of the Hon'ble Sri T. Prakasam, Prime Minister and the Hon'ble Sri Raghava Menon, Additional Minister for Food, to Delhi. That the Government of Madras is fighting a strenuous battle on the food front cannot be news to many people in the province. In the face of an overall shortage of rice and the imperativeness of the Government of India reconciling conflicting demands from diverse sources, this battle has not been as encouraging so far as Madras is concerned as we would like it to be, indicating

the need for further and more intensive efforts to face the situation as best as we can. On the one hand the Government is trying to consolidate the internal stock position by a vigorous procurement drive. On the other hand by negotiations with the Government of India and with other provincial Governments, it is endeavouring to secure as much rice as possible for the province. Their whole anxiety now is to obviate a further reduction in the rice ration. And if the procurement operations, coupled as they are with the offer of an increased bonus, yield the anticipated stocks, as it is hoped they will, the two lean months ahead can be faced with confidence and strength. The Hon'ble Sri Raghava Menon pointed out in an interview soon after he returned to Madras from New Delhi that "the Government do not consider it immediately necessary to reduce the rice portion of the ration until all their efforts to increase procurement of paddy fail to produce the desired effect of bringing out the hoarded stocks still with the producer." This evaluation of the position has been supported by the statement of the Prime Minister that there will be no further reduction in ration.

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As it is, Madras is expected to secure 5,000 tons of rice from the C. P. in exchange for 5,000 tons of wheat allotted to her and as a result of the consultations between the Orissa Premier and the Hon'ble Sri V. V. Giri, Orissa is also expected to make available some quantities of rice. As a sequel to the Prime Minister's visit to Delhi, the Government of India and the Food Member, the Hon'ble Dr. Rajendra Prasad, have now got a fuller appreciation of the rice requirements of an essentially rice-eating province like Madras, and Dr. Rajendra Prasad's forthcoming visit to the South is presumably in pursuance of the programme of acquiring intimate knowledge of conditions here by personal inspection. While we may be assured of the sympathetic consideration of Madras' needs by the Centre, the situation indicates the indispensableness and imperativeness of provincial self-help in tiding over the ensuing difficult period. Everything depends on the readiness and the promptness with which producers yield up stocks to Government agents which are over and above their requirements at 12 ozs. per head per day and the extent to which the rice supplies available for consumption are replenished thereby. Now is the time when the spirit of patriotism and co-operative fellow-feeling of our population should assert themselves over individual or communal selfishness.

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# MINISTRY'S ACHIEVEMENTS

Speaking about the achievements of the Congress Ministry during its short term of office, Mr. Bashyam, in the course of declaring the Ramnad Zamin Ryots Conference open, on September 25, said that it took office at a time of great crisis with regard to food and cloth. Large amounts had been set apart in the Budget for subsidising food supplies and ceaseless efforts were being made to get supplies. Corruption was slowly but surely being brought under control and he was sure the result of the measures would be soon felt. The Budget had on it the impress of the Congress programme and large amounts had been set apart for Khadi and village reconstruction and Harijan uplift. They had undertaken to introduce Prohibition in eight districts. All these were more than what the other Congress Governments had done, such as Bombay and U.P., which were supposed to be much nearer the High Command. Indeed, it might be said, he declared, that Madras was leading the other provinces in every respect.

In the matter of judicial reform, the Minister said, Government had undertaken the long-felt demand of the separation of the Judiciary from the Executive in right earnest and the scheme would be given effect to before the end of the year. In the matter of tenancy reform, Government had just passed legislation for the protection of the ryots in Zamindari areas and in Malabar, special steps had been taken so that they might not be evicted from their holdings. The continuation of controls over essential articles, the house-rent control and certain changes which had been introduced in the law relating to trade disputes were the special features of the last Assembly session. All these were intended for the benefit of both agricultural and industrial workers and the poorer middle class.

## INCREASE IN SUGAR PRODUCTION

### Controller Reviews Prospects

On a conservative estimate, it should be possible to restore 5 per cent out of the thirteen per cent cut imposed on sugar consumption in the country in 1945-46, but in view of last year's experience this would not be before February or March, 1947, observed Mr. N. T. Mono, Sugar Controller for India, addressing a meeting of the Sugar Advisory Committee in New Delhi on Sept. 24.

Outlining the sugar prospects in the coming year, the Sugar Controller estimated the next season's production at about ten and a half lakh tons.

The country was faced with increasing deficits in foodgrains, said the Sugar Controller, and the first consideration of the Central, Provincial and States Governments would be to have an adequate supply of these. Sugar and gur though valuable food must come afterwards. In his view, there was no scope for an indiscriminate increase in cane area.

# Some Press Notes of Madras Govt.

## HYDROGENATION FACTORY AT KURNOOL

Issued on September 18, 1946.

The attention of the Government of Madras has been drawn to certain statements and comments in a section of the Madras Press about the location of a Hydrogenation Factory at Kurnool by Birla Brothers. In view of the misapprehension that these statements and comments are calculated to produce in the public mind, Government desire to publish the following facts which should clarify the position in that connection.

It is not a fact that this Government granted or recommended the grant of any licence to Birlas. As Birlas placed orders for two Vanaspathi plants in England before the Government of India introduced the scheme for the registration of imported capital goods in December 1944, they were entitled to import the machinery. Further under section 298 of the Government of India Act, 'no subject of His Majesty, domiciled in India shall on grounds only of religion, place of birth, descent, colour or any of them shall...... be prohibited on any such grounds from acquiring, holding or disposing of property or carrying on any occupation, trade, business or profession in British India'. In view of the peremptory provisions of this section, Birlas cannot in fact be prevented from putting up their factory anywhere in British India. It must be further clearly understood that the allocation to Birlas does not cut into the Vanaspathi quota of 21,000 tons allotted to this Province by the Government of India.

### THE SELECTED SEVEN

In May 1945, the Government of India stated that their immediate plan was to increase the all-India production of vegetable ghee to the extent of a lakh of tons a year and that in that scheme the quota reserved for Madras was 21,000 tons and applications were invited for implementing the plan. The Madras Government then selected seven firms or persons and recommended them to the Government of India. The names of the companies which have been recommended for the purpose are:

1. The Vizagapatam Vegetable Oil Products Ltd.
2. The Madras Vanaspathi Ltd., Villupuram.
3. M/s. Sudarasan Oil Mills Ltd., Katpadi.
4. Bharat Vanaspathi Manufacturing Co., Tadepalli.
5. M/s. Karnataka Vegetable Oils & Refineries Ltd., Hospet, Bellary.
6. The Vegetols Ltd., Chittoor.
7. M/s. The East Asiatic Co., Madras.

The Government of India accepted this Government's recommendations and granted the necessary licences for the import of machinery and issue of capital. Subsequently the Government of India allotted a further quota of 9,000 tons under the immediate expansion scheme and that enabled three of the companies already selected to establish factories of 20 tons daily capacity instead of 10 tons. Under the immediate expansion scheme only one Company, i.e. M/s. The Karnatak Vegetable Oils & Refineries Ltd., Hospet, was granted an import licence by the Government of India to import the necessary machinery for Vanaspathi Factory.

### APPLICATIONS WILL BE CONSIDERED

In 1944-45 the Ceded Districts produced about 6,75,000 tons of groundnuts or about a third of the total production of the Province. There were only 128 expellers, while at least 250 expellers are necessary for converting the entire produce of the Ceded Districts into oil and cake. Further the Karnatak Vegetable Oils & Refineries Ltd., can consume only a little over three thousand tons of oil per annum as against the total oil production of the Ceded Districts of about two lakhs of tons per annum. There is, therefore, vast scope for the expansion of the Vanaspathi as well as oil crushing industry in the Ceded Districts. This Government are willing to consider sympathetically applications for the establishment of new Vanaspathi Factories in the Ceded Districts when further quota is allotted to the Province by the Government of India.

Birlas originally wanted to build a Vanaspathi Factory in Guntur District. The Advisers' Government after correspondence and personal discussion with Birlas' representatives suggested that instead of having their factory in Guntur District they may have it in Nandyal or Kurnool..

Subsequently this Government learnt that they were endeavouring to instal the plant in Sandur State. M/s. Karnatak Vegetable Oils & Refineries Ltd., Hospet, complained to this Government that the establishment of a large factory in the State would adversely affect their small factory in Hospet and that this Government should take steps to prevent Birlas from setting up their factory as contemplated.

At this stage the representatives of Birlas again discussed the matter with this Government, and the Government having considered all aspects of the matter came to the conclusion that the establishment by Birlas of a large Vanaspathi Factory in an Indian State within the Province would be against the interests of the Province for the following reasons:

1. That the Province has a very large exported surplus of groundnut kernels and groundnut oil;
2. That the capacity of Birla's factory is outside the quota allotted to this Province;
3. That by locating their factory in an Indian State, Birlas will, while using the groundnut oil of this Province, deprive its people of advantages which could have accrued to the Province by the establishment of a large-scale industry, such as employment of labour, better prices for the local groundnut grower, income from Sales Tax to the Province and Income-Tax to British India;
4. That the Karnatak Vegetable Oils & Refineries Ltd. have found it difficult to raise their capital inside the Ceded Districts; and

5. That by allowing the location inside the Province, Birlas can be persuaded to co-operate instead of competing with the other small factories proposed to be established in the Province.

### LOCAL ENTERPRISE TO BE ENCOURAGED

Government are glad to be able to announce that subsequently Birlas have agreed to float a Joint Stock Company in which half the shares will be reserved for the people of this Province and that in respect of sales of Vanaspathi they will co-operate with the smaller units instead of competing with them. They have also agreed to limit their Managing Agency Commission for a large plant like theirs to 10 per cent of the net profits and an office allowance of Rs. 1,000 per mensem, which they will not draw until the factory commences production. They have further agreed to purchase groundnut oil from local millers.

The Government of Madras make it clear that their objective to encourage local enterprise and capital has not undergone any change and that preference will be given to local enterprise and capital at all times in the starting of new industries, regard being had to the interests of the Province.

### BONUS TO PRIMARY PRODUCERS

Issued on September 19, 1946

Government have seen criticisms in the press of the recent announcement of bonus to the primary producers to induce them to reduce their rice requirements by recalculating them on the basis of 12 oz. per head per day. It has been suggested that Government's decision is calculated to encourage black-market activity, that Government cannot compete with black-market offers of recompense for paddy for export to Ceylon and that Government's decision would add additional fuel to the flames of inflation.

When Government decided on giving extra bonus to the producers of short term crop, they coupled it with an earnest appeal to the good sense of the producers in the hope that the latter would realise their responsibility in the present crisis and discharge it patriotically and for the common good.

So far as the danger of prospective blackmarketing in rice is concerned, Government are fully aware of the prevalence of the evil, not only in regard to rice but in regard to other commodities as well and their whole policy is directed towards taking every possible step to eradicate the evil, and those who practise it will not probably find it profitable to pursue a game, the consequences of which are likely to be extremely unpleasant. There is no intention in any case of bidding the blackmarketer out by offering these additional bonuses; the intention is only to ensure the procurement of the maximum possible quantities of rice and paddy by a voluntary sacrifice on the part of producers, so that while they will have four oz. less per head, everyone else can retain his or her present 8 oz. ration per head.

### COMMUNAL LANDS

Issued on September 24, 1946

The Government have been receiving complaints to the effect that communal lands in estates are being freely assigned by landholders. Section 21 of the Madras Estate Land Act, 1908, empowers the Collector to evict summarily in the manner prescribed by the Madras Land Encroachment Act, 1905, any person occupying communal lands for purposes other than those for which they are set apart. The Government have instructed Collectors of districts to see that prompt action is taken under that section to evict occupants of communal lands. The Public are requested to bring to the notice of the Collectors or Revenue Divisional Officers cases of assignment of communal lands in estates.

### CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETIES FOR PROCUREMENT PURPOSES

Issued on September 26, 1946.

Representations have been received by the Government from various quarters to the effect that, on the strength of certain instructions issued by the Government previously, interested parties are attempting to elbow out Co-operative Stores and Societies in favour of private dealers in the field of procurement of food-grains. This is clearly against the Government's intentions. The policy of the Government is definitely to foster the co-operative spirit and encourage co-operative institutions in all fields of activities as far as possible.

Even if a village committee is formed, where there is a co-operative society or store in existence, it should be entrusted with the work of procurement and distribution of foodgrains as well as other controlled commodities. The village committee will only look after the administrative functions like the scrutiny of demand list, issue of ration cards, etc. As and when new stores are formed (in places where they did not exist before) procurement and distribution should be transferred to them. However, if the Collector finds in consultation with the co-operative department that particular co-operative societies are unsuitable for the task, he may in his discretion appoint procurement agents after consulting the village committee.

The same agency, whether it be co-operative stores and societies, or selected dealers, will be entrusted with the distribution of import quotas also, since different agencies, one for handling local procurement and one for import quotas, cause confusion and is uneconomic to either. These instructions will come into effect immediately.

Co-operative societies or stores include sale societies and such other co-operative organisations which are willing to undertake the work and get the bye-laws amended if necessary to enable them to do so.

# PROHIBITION OBJECTIVES EXPLAINED

## PREMIER'S BROADCAST

The objects of the prohibition scheme inaugurated by the Government of Madras in eight districts of the province on Oct. 1, 1946, were explained by Mr. T. Prakasam, Premier, broadcasting from the Madras Station of the All-India Radio on September 28.

The following is the text of the broadcast.

October 1, 1946, will be a red letter day in the history of the Madras Presidency. On that day will be inaugurated one of the most important and most significant social uplift schemes formulated by the present Madras Government—namely—prohibition. Prohibition had been introduced by the last Congress Government in four districts of the Presidency—namely—Salem, Chittoor, Cuddapah and North Arcot, between Oct. 1937 and Oct. 1939. But the scheme had been scrapped with effect from Jan. 1, 1944, on the ground that excise offences had gone on increasing and as it was considered by the then Government that public enthusiasm which greeted the enactment of the Prohibition Act had waned.

The present Government, pledged as it is to the furtherance of the Congress programme and to the promotion of the Congress ideology, reconsidered the matter immediately after they took office. They have, as a vital part of the programme of social and economic uplift and amelioration of the population, decided to reintroduce prohibition, not only in the four districts in which it was in force between 1937 and 1939, but in four more districts also—namely—Coimbatore, Kurnool, Ahantapur and Bellary. The financial implications of prohibition, the administrative difficulties involved in enforcing it, may all be there; we will be giving up a revenue of more than Rs. 5 crores a year by the extension of prohibition to eight districts. Nevertheless we are determined to proceed with the scheme, because we feel that the financial loss or administrative difficulties with which we are faced are as nothing when compared with the large-scale social and economic benefits that emancipation from the drink evil is bound to confer on the people, particularly the poorer sections thereof. It is an experiment in social reform of far-reaching implications, which we have decided must be undertaken on its own incontestable merits.

The Prohibition Act, in accordance with the provisions of which this scheme is going to be launched now, provides not only for the enforcement of prohibition of intoxicating drinks and drugs by the usual official agency, but also for active, purposeful non-official co-operation. The prohibition staff will of course be there to perform an essential and important duty. But an equally or more important duty will have to be performed by the non-officials and the general public. Successful enforcement of prohibition demands the complete eradication of the practice of illicit distillation and illicit sale of intoxicating liquor. Complete eradication of the evil demands, in its turn, the co-operation of all sections of the people, rich and poor, zamindars and tenants, those who had never tasted drink and those who may be classified as ex-addicts. Government have instructed Collectors and local officials to form non-official prohibition committees and I would emphasize and impress on everyone of the officials the fact that it is as much their duty to seek and enlist public co-operation as it will be the duty of every member of the public to give it wholeheartedly and ungrudgingly. I earnestly hope that such co-operation will be forthcoming in an abundant measure. The Act provides for penalties for offences like illicit distillation and sale of liquor, possession of intoxicating drinks and so on, but, as you all know, penal provisions are meant to be negative deterrents to evil-doers, not positive aid to people intent on self-reform. *By their helpful and exemplary conduct, therefore, everyone can help in rendering those penal provisions superfluous.*

The Government realise that the enforcement of prohibition will entail loss of occupation to a good number of people who had been making a living by toddy-tapping and sale of arrack and toddy and allied intoxicants. It is their earn-

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**MADRAS GOES AHEAD WITH KHADI SCHEME**

**Premier Inaugurates it in Two Centres**

The Madras Government's intensive khadi production scheme has been inaugurated in two centres, Errangondapalem and Guruvareddipalem by the Hon. Sri T. Prakasam. The first step has thus been taken in the Government's effort to promote village salt-sufficiency as a preliminary to village prosperity.

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**EIGHT DISTRICTS IN MADRAS GO DRY**

**Prohibition Inaugurated on October 1.**

On October 1, 8 districts in the Madras Presidency have gone "dry". From reports received by the "Madras Information," the inauguration of prohibition had been hailed with delight and enthusiasm everywhere. (For full details see next issue).]

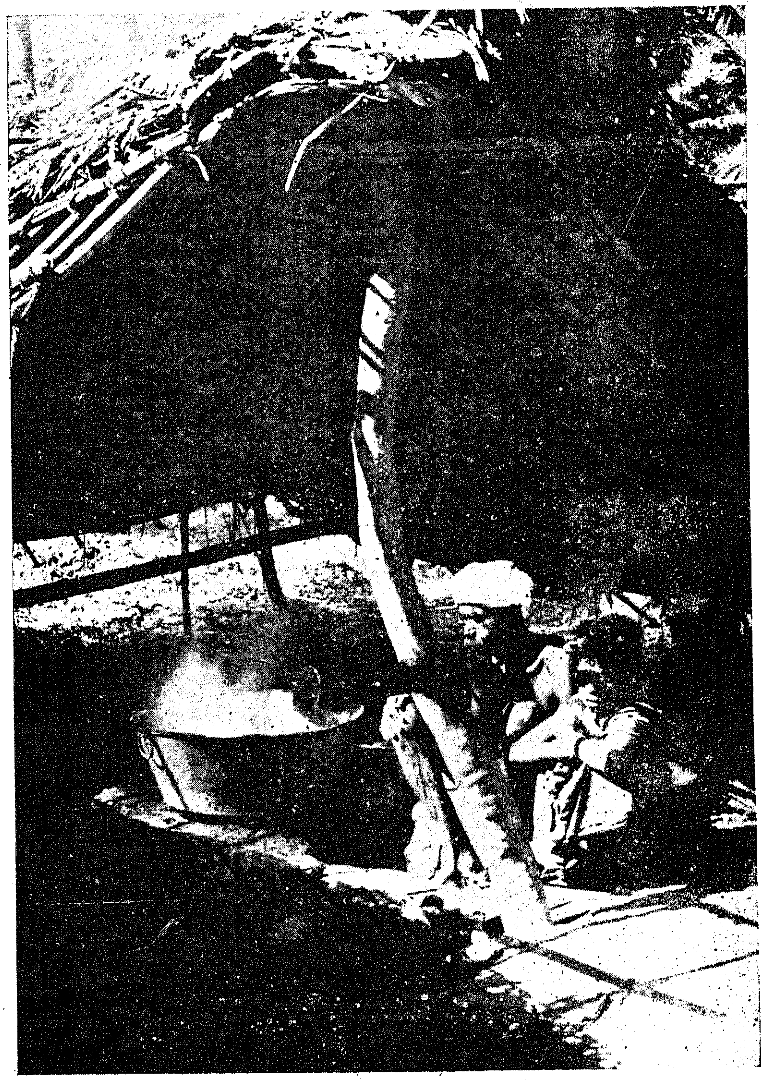
est desire and intention to find alternative means of employment for these people which will enable them to make an honest and industrious living. Government have sanctioned a number of schemes for employing these people in various beneficial activities like road-construction, manufacture of sweet toddy and jaggery and other cottage industries.

It has been decided that prohibition of alcoholic liquors should be accompanied by some positive measures to enable the ex-addicts to improve themselves economically and to invest their savings on drink in providing for themselves better houses, better farming and better living generally. There is also provision for the entertainment of the people in the prohibition districts, to relieve the tedium of the evening hours. It will be for them to derive the fullest advantage from these various measures intended to ameliorate their condition, to improve their lot and to afford them amusement and instruction. I trust that the officials entrusted with the ameliorative side of prohibition work will devote themselves to the service of the people in the right and proper spirit, with a full realisation of the missionary duty they are called on to perform. It is on their successfully and sincerely performing it that the well-being and betterment of a few millions of people, men, women and children so largely depend. In service to humanity they should seek their reward.

It is the first and primary intention of the present Government to serve the masses and to improve their conditions in every possible way. Saving the people from the tentacles of the evil of drink, which has been holding them in the deadly grip for generations and which has been the cause of the ruin of innumerable homes and the destruction of the domestic peace and happiness of innumerable families, is one of the most important methods by which the objective mentioned can be attained.

*The introduction of prohibition in eight districts, as is well-known, is only an initial step. We are determined to go ahead with the scheme and to extend it to the whole presidency in the course of the next three years.*

When that has been done and the drink demon has been effectively destroyed throughout the province, we will have accomplished the biggest and most important social reform that any Government has achieved anywhere. We will then have the satisfaction of having introduced light into thousands of homes where darkness prevailed before; we will have the satisfaction of having spread joy into thousands of families where destitution and poverty reigned supreme before. But the success of the scheme, I once again repeat, depends on the capacity for self-help and the desire for self-improvement of the people themselves. All moral reform in this world has to proceed from within and can only be aided and encouraged by pressure of external influence. While the Government and Government officials entrusted with the enforcement and ameliorative sides of prohibition will help and assist in every possible way, the people must assist themselves and influencial non-official gentlemen, members of the Congress Committees, members of the Prohibition Committees and everyone else, individually and collectively, must act as agents in making the great cause a success. May God help us in this great humanitarian task and give us courage, resourcefulness and strength to fight and kill the demon of drink.



Boiling Sweet Toddy for Jaggery

# PROHIBITION CRITICS ANSWERED

## *A LEAF FROM THE PAST*

*"The sign of a tavern shall be imposed with a red-hot iron on the head of the man who drinks spirituous liquor..........*

*"Excluded from all fellowship at meals, excluded from all sacrifices, excluded from instruction and matrimonial alliances and from all religious duties, let the offenders wander on the earth."*—(Manu—IX—238).

Now that the prohibition experiment is under way in eight districts in this province, it may be worthwhile to recall how far it has been able to produce valuable results in the past when it was enforced in some districts in this province. Salem has been singled out for treatment here, because it typifies many of the features of a wet area and the results achieved there can fairly be taken to be possible in other prohibition districts too.

They Sing in Praise of Prohibition,

According to statistics collected round about the first prohibition period, there were seven lakhs of drink addicts, out of a total population of twenty-four lakhs, and of these seven lakhs, five lakhs were toddy addicts. Roughly there was one shop for 2,221 persons and in terms of villages, every alternate village had a toddy or a drug shop. On an average more than thirty-five per cent of the total family expenses went for liquor and forty per cent of the families ran into debt on account of intemperance.

Thus Salem was a typical field for prohibition experiment. The experiment however had a mixed reception. Some doubted its feasibility, others questioned its propriety, while the public at large found themselves suddenly confronted with what appeared to them a revolutionary experiment. All the same, the results achieved were truly remarkable.

### A HAPPY VILLAGE

Here is a scene from Salem as eye-witnesses saw it eight years ago when Prohibition was first introduced in that district by the Congress Ministry.

"A cottage covered with dry leaves and enclosed with mud walls. A group of villagers gathered around a flickering lamp and squatting opposite a picture of Mahatma Gandhi begin a programme of Bhajana with a song in praise of prohibition.

"These villagers acknowledge the benefits they have received from this reform. A slice of their in-

come, which had been formerly spent on drink, is now being utilised for better expenditure.

"The labourer returns home early at night, the evening programme of insobriety having been removed from the daily routine. He brings his wages home in full; the housewife is able to provide him with better food than she was able to formerly; the children are clothed well. The family has a hearty meal; the elders meet at the village common place in a bhajana party This has a moral effect on the village. *The whole village knows that this change has been wrought by prohibition.*

"People are living better lives than before, and some of them have invested their savings from prohibition in purchasing sheep or goats, setting up poultries and similar supplementary sources of income. On the whole, the tone of village life has improved........The family which had suffered formerly for the indiscretion and helplessness of its principal breadwinner, is now happy. For when he was a moral wreck the family could not receive from him the right guidance; nor could the children be brought up in the right ways of life. The divinity in man was lost and the possibilities of man rising to his full stature were too few. Now that the wastage has been arrested, the economic condition of the family has improved. The reform has effected a valuable change in the psychology of man—when he realises the benefits of the reform in his everyday life and in the improvement of his family, he repents his folly..........

"This scene of healthy social life is a common feature of the village in the Salem district and of slums and other residential areas of the poor and the backward......"

**These Copper And Brass Vessels Were Bought Out of Savings From Prohibition**

This extract taken from the book entitled ""Towards Dry India" by "Atreya," should set at rest the misgivings expressed by the doubting Thomases who are sceptical about the benefits of prohibition. Prohibition will be a success: it has been a success in Bhavanagar; it has been a success in Salem. There is no reason why it should not be a success in other districts as well. Read what the then District Collector of Salem (Mr. A. F. W. DIXON, I.C.S.) had to say in his report on the working of prohibition: "I am convinced," says he, "after three months' experience, that prohibition is proving a great boon to the poorer classes." He continues to point out that 90 per cent of the persons formerly addicted to drink have become teetotallers in the fullest sense of the word. Only a small percentage of them, especially those on the frontiers of the prohibition district, were trying to evade the law. Minor crimes came down in Salem to about 50 per cent of the pre-prohibition days. More than 30 per cent of the families recorded a rise in the standard of living, while 20 to 25 per cent were able to clear off their former debts.

**VERDICT OF SCIENCE**

People there are who still argue that alcohol, after all, is not so deleterious to health as is often made out by the temperance enthusiasts. But listen to the story that Arthur Mee relates in his 'Golden Year.'

"It was in the Pasteur Institute that Science became a teetotaller, for it was here that Metchinkoff made his immortal discovery of what alcohol really does.

"It is worth while to tell the story once again, lest we forget. Through our bodies a river of blood flows ceaselessly through thousands of miles of living walls, and in this river swim more living cells than there are people on the earth. There are red cells and white cells. Each time we breathe our lungs receive a fresh supply of oxygen, the source of life, and it is the business of the red cells to call at the lungs for

A Cocoanut Tope Tapped Formerly for Toddy And Now for Jaggery.

oxygen to be distributed throughout our system. Every red cell in our body pays 20,000 visits to our lungs, and makes 20,000 journeys throughout our system, in the course of its short life. At the end of a fortnight it lays down its life and another red cell takes up its work.

"The thing that was proved in the Pasteur Institute is that alcohol makes it hard for the red cell to carry out its work, so that the body is ill and white cells come into play. They are the great defenders of our body, our army and navy, ever watchful for invaders, and never pausing till they have fought them back or perished. So it is that, when illness comes, the white guardians of our life are most needed to drive off evil microbes, but the alcohol that cripples the red cell cripples the white cell too, and paralyses these defenders of our body, so that we are helpless against attack.

"Again and again the great ocean of knowledge has swept onward in these famous rooms of Pasteur—here it was that men first learned the parts that microbes play in industry and disease; but no more precious discovery has ever been made in Paris than this. For we know now, once for all, that our bodies are battlefields in which are living cells for ever fighting microbes, and the indictment on which science has sentenced alcohol to death is that it hinders the red cells in distributing life and hinders the white cells in resisting death."

MORE MEDICAL EVIDENCE

The International Conference on Alcoholism held at London in 1909 and attended by scientists and experts in medicine declared as follows:—

"Exact, laboratory, clinical and pathological research has demonstrated that alcohol is a dehydrating protoplasmic poison and its use as a beverage is destructive and degenerating to the human organism. Its effects on the cells and the tissues of the body are depressive and anaesthetic. Therefore therapeutically its use should be limited and restricted in the same way as the use of other poisonous drugs."

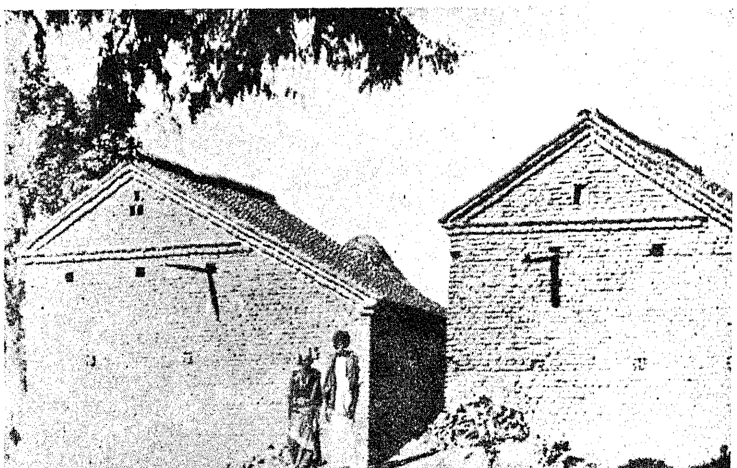
And pray, what more is prohibition?

SCEPTICS TO REMEMBER

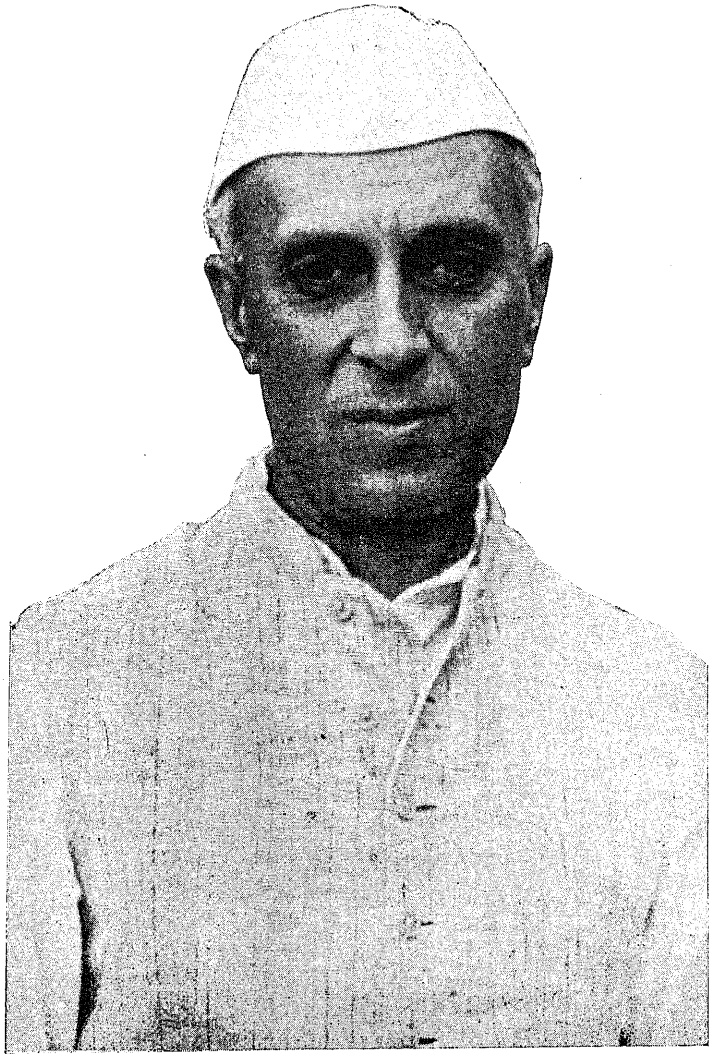
Everytime the critics of prohibition trot out the stock argument that total prohibition has been tried in many western countries but has failed. Therefore it will fail in India, too.

But the critics fail to realise that India is not America or any other western country. The following points of difference are worth remembering.

(*a*) There is no traditional taboo on drinks in the West. Even women use it and they are not considered any the worse for it. Drinking is a fashion there, almost a social virtue. But in India, for thousands

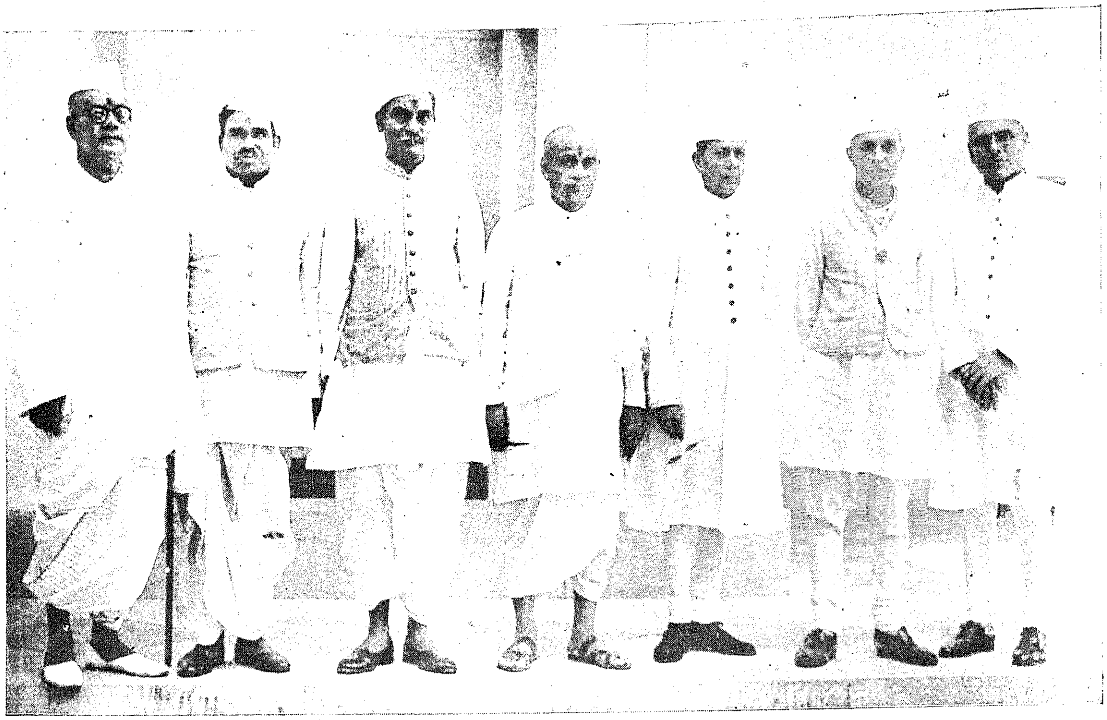


Prohibition Enabled These Harijans to Displace a Thatched Mud Hut by a Tiled Brick House.



First Vice-President of the Interim Central Cabinet.

# The First National Government.

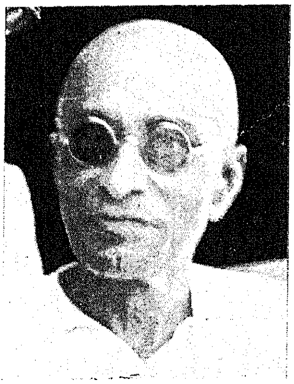


LEFT TO RIGHT :—Messrs. Sarat Chandra Bose, Jagjivan Ram, Rajendra Prasad, Sardar Vallabhai Patel, Asaf Ali, Pandit Nehru, Ali Zahir.

Sir Shaafat Ahmad Khan.

★

Dr. John Mattbai.



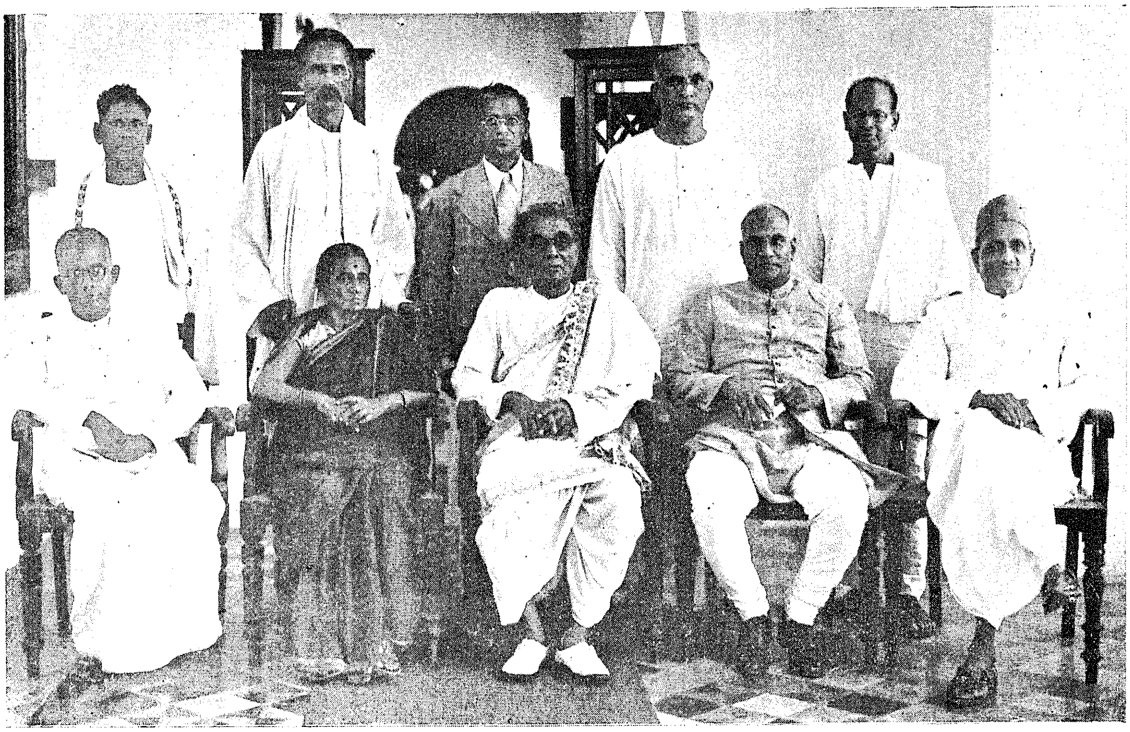
Mr. C. Rajagopalachari.

Sirdar Baldev Singh.

★

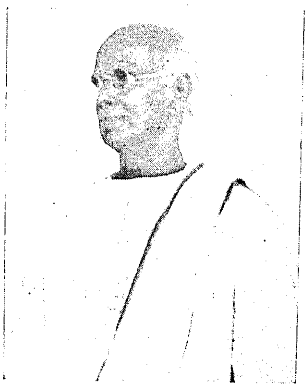
Mr. C. H. Bhaba.

## May Day opened this year with a People's Ministry in Madras.

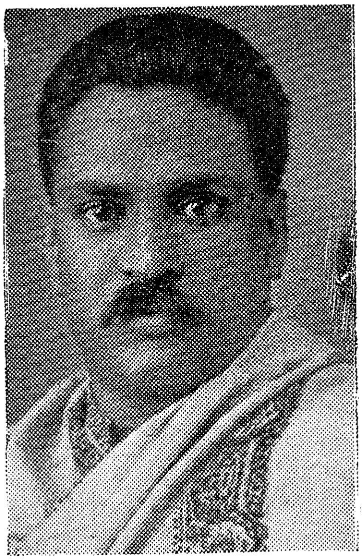


LEFT TO RIGHT:—Messrs. Bhakthavatsalam, Mrs. Rukmini Lakshmipathy, Prakasam, Giri, Bashyam, Kurmayya, Koti Reddi, Daniel Thomas, Karanth, Avinashilingam Chettiar.

★ ★



Mr. Veerasamy.



Mr. P. S. Kumaraswami Raja

Mr. Raghava Menon.

**The Premier of Madras.**

of years, the drinking of liquors has been condemned. The Rig Veda condemns it: the Sruthis and Smrithis condemn it. Manu calls it the personification of sin. Not only has it been condemned, but society has accepted this condemnation and has tabooed drink completely. Ever since 1894, when Mr. Alfred Webb raised the issue for the first time in his Presidential Address, prohibition has been one of the most important plank in the Congress programme. Gandhiji made prohibition a burning issue before the public and mobilised public opinion in every corner of India in favour of prohibition. Today, therefore, public opinion is strongly and solidly behind prohibition in India in a manner in which it has never been in the West.

(b) The club and social life in America and other western countries is most encouraging to the contracting and perpetuating of the drink habit. But the attachment of the ordinary Indian to his family and to home life and the comparative absence of club life down here is a potent weapon against liquor, once the addict can be saved from the clutches of the frothing demon and time is given to him to strengthen his will-power.

(c) In America, when you think of imposing prohibition, you think of imposing abstinence on almost the whole nation, since the number that drinks runs into several crores. But in India, it is not millions that drink but only individuals, just a small fraction of the total population.

(d) One reason why prohibition failed in America is the fact that the fabulously rich and powerful liquor interests (brewers and distillers) were able to launch a powerful, organised campaign against prohibition. But in India these liquor interests are not so powerful and public opinion will not countenance any campaign against prohibition.

### AN APPEAL

So it would seem that all that is required for the success of prohibition in this province is the wholehearted co-operation of the people. People should not take it for granted that prohibition will succeed, but should organise vigorously for its success. Otherwise we will be committing the same folly that American prohibitionists committed. They thought that everything would be alright once the Prohition Act was put on the Statute Book. Once that was done they relaxed and the enemies nefariously killed the Prohibition Act. Those who have belief in prohibition must ever be on the alert.

The Government have faith in the people of this province, and with the peoples' co-operation the Government are confident that the policy of prohibition will be a success.

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# INVESTIGATION INTO LAND TENURE SYSTEMS

## Government Invite Public Opinion.

In order to find out the existing conditions of tenants particularly with reference to fairness of rent, duration of lease and security of tenure, the Government have decided to conduct an enquiry into the present system of land tenure in the ryotwari areas of this Province. With this purpose in view, they have prepared a questionnaire for non-officials and Associations. The following are the important points:—

(1) *Nature and conditions of the tenancy*. Full information is invited on agreement between Pattadar and tenant, special conditions in the lease, interest of the landlord in the cultivation, vacant lands, and, disputes between landlord and tenant (if any).

*Rent*. Fair or otherwise, tenants' margin of profit, regularity or otherwise of rent, interest charged for the arrears, remission for failure of crops, if no remission is granted, how does he pay the rent, any debts to pay rent, and any suits filed in civil courts for recovery of rent.

*Fixing of Fair Rent*. Is the fair rent to be fixed on existing land assessment or produce of the land?

*Tenure of the Tenancy*. Period of tenancy in general. Is eviction of tenants frequent? What are the reasons? Is it desirable to secure fixity of tenure by legislation?

*General Condition of the Cultivating Tenant*. Are not the tenants cultivating sufficient extent of lands to secure them a living? Are they generally in debts? On what account? Is there any difficulty in getting tenants? What are the reasons?

*Cost of Cultivation*. Information and data are requested on costs of cultivations and gross outputs of important crops, preparations of soil, cost of ploughing, seeds, manures and labour on different operations.

*Agricultural Wages and Employment*. What are the customary rates of wages in money and in kind? Days and hours of employment available for the Pattadar, the tenant and the labourers.

*Prevention of Fragmentation of Holdings*. With a view to prevent excessive fragmentation of holdings, which reduces the productivity of lands, would you prefer legislation to change the law of inheritance and succession and or limitation of unrestricted right to transfer by compelling right of presumption to co-sharers on equitable principles and or compulsory consolidation and redistribution of holdings.

*General*. Particulars about the selling prices of land are invited. How far is the transfer of land common? What is the number of such transfer for a few years? What are the common causes of transfer?

**FOOD FRONT :**

# "A LITTLE SACRIFICE BY EACH FOR ALL"

## *THE WAY TO MEET FOOD CRISIS*

## Dr. RAJENDRA PRASAD'S BROADCAST

*Broadcasting from Delhi on September 23, Dr. Rajendra Prasad, the Food Minister, Govt. of India said that though the overall picture of the food position was gloomy, it was not altogether dark. The critical period is short, and the current crop promises to be normal. If only the people all over India make a pull, a strong and determined pull, we can successfully pass the crisis.*

*In the course of the broadcast Dr. Prasad paid a handsome tribute to the Madras Ministry on the way in which they have dealt with the food problem. The following is the full text of the broadcast:—*

"I took over charge of the Food portfolio only three weeks ago. I, therefore, hope that my listeners will not be very critical if I do not give them the details of the present food problem and food administration in the country. The broad facts of the situation are, however, well known. Even before the war, India, to meet her requirements, imported over a million tons, sometimes two million tons, of foodstuff, principally rice, mainly from Burma. India this year has had the misfortune of a major failure of both the kharif and rabi crops due to drought, causing an estimated loss of rice and millets in Southern and Central India, of three million tons and of rabi crops in Northern India, of four million tons—a misfortune which the country experiences only once or twice in half a century.

### THREE WAYS OF MEETING CRISIS

"There were only three ways of facing up this calamity. The first was to increase production of crops, which could be grown between the major harvests; the second was to secure assistance from abroad; and the third was to distribute the incidence of shortage as evenly and equitably as possible.

"As regards the increase of production to aid which is the function of the Department of Agriculture, it will suffice to say for the present that encouragement was given both by the Central and Provincial Governments to grow short-term crops; subsidies were granted to cultivators and concessions were given in the form of revenue remission, water supply and free manure. It was, however, not expected that these subsidiary crops could really break the edge of the scarcity except to a very limited extent in local areas.

In our efforts to secure adequate imports of grain from abroad we have had a series of disappointments. That was inevitable in a world desperately short of food. At the time of the visit of the Indian Delegation to Washington, the world's wheat demands were twenty million tons against supplies of twelve million tons, and the demands for rice for the second quarter only were two million tons, against supplies of 23,000 tons. It has, therefore, never been possible for India to get a quota from abroad sufficient to meet her demands; nor has it been possible for her to get firm allocations of wheat or wheat substitutes such as maize. The International Emergency Food Council has had to proceed month by month programming such supplies as became available.

"Of rice we were allocated for the second quarter of the year 146,000 tons, against a demand for 500,000 tons and for the second half of the year the allocation was 270,000 tons against a demand for 700,000 tons. Against the minimum import demand of 40 lakhs of tons, India has till now received only 12½ lakhs of tons, of which only 173,000 tons were in rice.

### TASK OF ALLOCATION

"Since April last, the Food Department has been hard put to it to make monthly allocations of the resources available within India and from overseas to the deficit Provinces and States, so that at the end of a month each has a reserve of about six weeks' requirements. That a wholesale breakdown has so far been avoided has been due largely to the efforts made by the people and by the Provincial and State Governments to secure their own internal surplus and to economise their internal consumption. I must pay here my personal tribute to the Governments of U. P., Madras and Bombay. Within the short time that the new Ministries have been in office they have shown what popular Governments can do to mobilise public opinion and enlist public co-operation in dealing with such a difficult situation. The position on September 1 was that the over-all stocks held by the deficit Provinces and States represented about six weeks' reserve. The position, has deteriorated since then.

"A major development has been the seamens' strike in U. S. A.

Even if the news of the end of the strike is true, already we have lost many days, which in terms of tonnage means a short-fall in the October arrivals of nearly 100,000 tons, if not more. We had been hoping on large imports of maize and other grains from Argentine and to expedite matters, we had sent out a Mission headed by Dewan Chamanlal. In spite of the efforts made by the Mission, export licences have not been made available yet for all our purchases and the short-fall in arrivals against our previous calculations in October will be no less than 60,000 tons. The diversion of three ships by UNRRA carrying about 24,000 tons of wheat, which was announced a few days ago would have been a great help to us, if they arrived in time, but the seamen's strike will affect the loading of these ships also. Again supplies of rice from Brazil have been delayed. The supply position in the Far East has also deteriorated. We had been allotted 207,500 tons by the International Emergency Food Council from Burma and Siam for the second half of this year. We now estimate that we are not likely to get more than 137,000 tons out of this allocation, which will thus result in a short-fall of 70,000 tons. The short-fall from Siam is due largely to internal difficulties and lack of sufficient facilities of transport, some of which we have tried to meet.

## SUPPLIES FROM EAST

"On the day that I took over office, I had the opportunity of impressing upon the Siamese Delegation, who had come to sign an agreement for a loan from India of five crores of rupees, the serious situation in this country and the absolute necessity of Siam speeding up her exports to the utmost. The prospects from Burma are a little better than estimated a few months ago but as the supplies from Siam, Burma and Indo-China are treated as a pool by the International Emergency Food Council, the excess supply from Burma will not all come to us. There has been one source to which we have been looking, and that is the offer of the Indonesian Republic to give us five lakhs tons of rice or seven lakhs tons of paddy. The formal agreement with the Indonesian Republic and the Netherlands East Indies Government was concluded last month. The main problem there has been to move the rice from the interior to rail heads and to the ports. For this coal and motor trucks are required. India could supply these. But some difficulties have arisen and we are not able to take full advantage of the generous offer and our supplies from that source so far have been inconsiderable and may not be very appreciable in the critical months ahead.

"With the failure of crops in our country, short allocations from abroad, a heavy short-fall in the arrival of these allocations, difficulties of transport in Siam and Java, and non-materialisation of expected imports from Argentine, we are faced with a grave situation within the next two or three months. This can be met only to a limited extent by imports from outside. While we are grateful to the countries which have helped us so far and must continue to appeal to them and to hope for the best they can do for us, we must realise that we have to depend mainly on ourselves to prevent a breakdown and this we can do and must do. Let us grow whatever we can and wherever we can, and there are many vegetables, roots, tubers and fruits apart from grains, which can be raised in a short time.

## ADVICE TO RICE-EATERS

"It requires only a little attention, fore-thought and labour to grow them and we know that our Kisans are resourceful. There are areas which are better off than others, and they must offer whatever they can to those in trouble. The country as a whole must be prepared to make sacrifices. The difficulty is mostly in the rice-eating areas. I must ask the areas which can manage to do without rice, even though it be at some inconvenience and discomfort, to confine themselves to wheat and its substitutes and to spare as much rice as they can. I must ask the rice-eating areas to accept and adapt themselves to wheat and its substitutes and reduce their consumption of rice. If they take to unpolished rice, which is undoubtedly more nourishing and which can therefore be taken in a small quantity without detriment to health, the deficit in the supply of rice can be met to some extent. Wheat and maize may be ground and converted into flour, of which bread can be baked or which can be boiled and made into balls. They may be also broken and cooked like rice. Maize and barley and gram can be baked with hot sand and easily ground into flour and eaten with salt or jaggery without any further cooking, as is done in Bihar. It may become necessary, and our people must be prepared for a further reduction in the ration cereals, particularly of rice.

## NEED TO SHARE STOCKS WITH OTHERS

"Above all we must each and all be prepared to share whatever we have with others. Each one of us must examine his little store and spare what he can out of it even at inconvenience to himself. Those who have any large stock, either as producers or as traders, must realise the seriousness of the situation and produce it for being pooled for the common good. They need have no fears, as they will get a fair price for it which is not likely to be permitted to rise any further. On the other hand, there will be real risk in stocking when others are starving.

"The overall picture, although gloomy, is not altogether dark. The critical period is short. Although floods in some parts and short rainfall in others—which were inevitable in a big country like India—have caused some damage, nature on the whole has been kind during the current season and we are expecting a normal crop. Some of the minor rainy season crops like the *Aus* rice of Bengal and adjoining provinces and maize in Bihar and other provinces are already harvested or in the process of being harvested. They can and will relieve the pressure to some extent in the areas concerned. The principal millet and rice crops will be available by the end of the year if not before. Our people have a knack of facing up the calamities, which may well break others. We need all the skill and determination we can muster to produce more and save what little we can, remembering that every little addition to the common pool is going to make a difference to the man in difficulty. We need to show in a practical way fellow-feeling and sympathy for those of our countrymen who are in distress. We all have to make a pull, a strong and determined pull, and we shall have passed the crisis. We refuse to be defeated. Courage, discipline, fellow-feeling and a little sacrifice by each for all and by all for each cannot fail to see us through."

# "CALCULATE YOUR REQUIREMENTS AT 12 OZS. PER DAY"

## DELIVER BALANCE TO GOVERNMENT

—:o:—

## Premier's Appeal to Producers

As the public are aware the Government reduced with effect from 4-8-1946 the rice portion of the ration to 8 oz. per adult per day for insufficient and non-producing rice eaters with great reluctance, as the prospect of getting imported rice in sufficient quantities to maintain the 10 ozs. rice ration was uncertain. It was my avowed intention at that time to restore the rice ration to 10 oz. as soon as circumstances permitted; but the information since received shows that the prospects of imports of rice are not favourable and it is now considered extremely unlikely that outside help to the extent required will be forthcoming and in time even to maintain the 8 oz. ration. It has therefore become even more necessary than before to conserve the stocks as long as possible and make them last until the crop from the next main harvests become available in January.

It has been suggested that the rice portion of the ration should be cut still further to 6 oz. for non-producing rice eaters, but I am reluctant to take this step unless and until all other methods available have been tried and exhausted and our local resources have been fully mobilised. A proposal to purchase from America 75 lakhs of rice dinner packets as an emergency reserve at a cost of Rs. 24 lakhs was considered. Calculations showed that the rice content in these packets was worth only about Rs. 2 lakhs and it was decided not to pursue the proposal of purchasing them on Government account as Rs. 24 lakhs was considered to be too heavy a price to pay for so little rice even to tide over the emergency. It seems to me much better that money should be spent for the benefit of our own producers rather than to purchase stocks from outside the province at exorbitant rates.

All producers have now been allowed to retain the paddy required for their family consumption calculated at the rate of 1 lb. of rice per adult per day. If the rice portion of the ration is reduced to 6 oz. for persons who have to purchase their rations there will be great disparity between the quantity which the producers are allowed to have and the rice ration which is available to their neighbours. I feel sure that the producers themselves will be quite unhappy at the privation and suffering that will follow the reduction of the rice ration to cardholders to 6 ozs.

### FURTHER SACRIFICE REQUIRED

I therefore appeal to the producers of our province to reduce their consumption of rice by recalculating their requirements for the rest of the year, at 12 oz. of rice per adult per day. I appeal to them to reduce it still further if possible and to sell all the rice or paddy that they can spare to the agents of the Government. The response of the producers to the appeals made by me in the past to release the stocks have so far been magnificent but a further sacrifice is required of them now.

### RACE AGAINST TIME

As time is of the essence of the matter I request producers to make their stocks available immediately. In recognition of the sacrifice that this involves I have authorised the payment upto 31-10-1946 of a bonus of Rs. 2 per imperial maund of paddy and of Rs. 3 per maund of rice over and above the price fixed for purchase from producers, inclusive of the bonus already announced of Re. 1 per imperial maund of short term paddy delivered in September and October and up to the middle of November.

I assure the producers that this sacrifice will be appreciated and that no action will be taken against them for stocks now sold even though they be in excess of what they were entitled to hold.

The season promises to be favourable and there is no need for the producers to be apprehensive about the future. If they make this great sacrifice now we should be able to pull through these difficult months and may reasonably look forward to raising the rice ration as soon as the main harvests come on to the market.

# COMPARATIVE NUTRITIVE VALUES OF RICE, MAIZE, BARLEY AND WHEAT

All natural foodstuffs contain what are known as certain food factors. These are proteins, fats carbo-hydrates, salts, vitamins and water. These food factors are present in varying proportions in different foodstuffs. Now let us compare rice with maize, barley and wheat.

PROTEINS:

Rice contains on an average about 7.5% proteins while maize contains 11.1%, barley 11.5% and wheat 12.1% Protein supplies building material to the body and makes good the loss of tissue which occurs during every moment of our existence. Protein is also a source of energy. As compared with foodstuffs like maize and barley which are usually uncommon in this Presidency you would see that rice is a poorer source of protein. If it becomes necessary to substitute rice partially by maize or barley it must not be forgotten that only more nutritious food stuffs are replacing rice partially or wholly.

Fats.—Rice 0.6%: Maize 3.6%; Barley 1.3% Wheat 1.5%.

Fats are utilised by the body in a number of ways and are good sources of energy. Weight for weight, rice contains about half the fat content of barley, one-sixth of maize and about 2/5 wheat. Thus even as regards fat content, maize, barley and wheat are not inferior to rice and are definitely richer food stuffs.

As regards carbohydrate and calorie content of these four grains, there is no appreciable or significant difference between them. For instance the colorie value of one ounce of rice is 99, while that of maize is 97, that of barley 95; whole wheat yields 98 calories.

The important salts are distributed in the different grains as given below.

| | Calcium | Phosphorous |
|---|---|---|
| Rice | 0.01 | 0.17 |
| Maize | 0.01 | 0.33 |
| Barley | 0.03 | 0.23 |
| Wheat | 0.05 | 0.32 |

Thus maize, barley and wheat are not inferior to rice in their content of some of the most important mineral elements.

| | Thiamin in micrograms./per 100 grms. of edible matter |
|---|---|
| Rice (whole) | 240 — 300/- |
| Maize (dry) | 200 — 300/- |
| Barley (whole) | 400 — 500/- |
| Wheat (whole) | 500 — 600/- |

| | Riboflavine in microgms. per grm. | Nicotinic Acid in microgms. per gram. |
|---|---|---|
| Rice (whole) | 0.6 | 2.78 |
| Maize (dry) | 0.6 | 1.07 |
| Barley (whole) | figures not available | |
| Wheat (whole) | 0.8 | 5.33 |

Thus it will be seen that miaze is not inferior to rice in thiamine or riboflavine contents while is is inferior to others in nicotinic acid content. Deficiency of nicotinic acid in the dietary is likely to cause pellagra. Sherman says in his book on Chemistry of food and nutrition that "Nicotinic acid alone does not enable the typical pellagrin to become a healthy person for the food supplies which have been and are still responsible for the illness of most pellagrins are certainly often deficient in other things as well as nicotinic acid". The typical diet of the poor pellagrin contains so little of anything else than milled cereals, sweets and fats or fat meat that it is all too apt to induce other nutritional deficiencies at the same time with that of nicotinic acid." No one in this province is likely to be forced to subsist on maize alone, as maize alone will not be the only cereal ration available to the public. If maize and wheat or maize and rice are given in equal proportions or the proportion of maize is less than half there is no fear of pellagra occurring anywhere.

Even if enough rice were available for consumption, it is not desirable that the cereal ration should be in the form of rice alone. It is preferable that two or three cereals are consumed, not necessarily at the same meal but at different meals though the main cereal might be the cereal to which one is ordinarily accustomed. If the dietary of a population consists of more than one cereal, such a dietary is likely to give more nutrition to the consumers than any single cereal. Every cereal has some defects or other and a mixture of cereals will make up the defects of individual cereals and contribute to the making of a better diet. The introduction of maize, barley and wheat into the dietaries of the people of the Madras Presidency cannot be considered, from a nutritional point of view, as likely to affect the health of the population adversely, but on the other hand would improve the health of the people. Customs die hard, but our people do adapt themselves to new conditions and will try to derive the maximum benefit by any likely changes in the composition of their cereal ration, if only they are made fully aware of the advantages resulting from such changes.

*(By The Nutrition Officer, Food Dept., Govt, of Madras.)*

# COTTAGE INDUSTRIES TO BE REHABILITATED

## NEW DRIVE TO REVIVE DROOPING VILLAGES

The heart of India lies in its villages. This is true of Madras, too. But this heart is today feeble and inarticulate; its beat is almost imperceptible.

Much of the countryside is merely a rural slum, where life is stagnant and the air heavy with languor and apathy. For generations the villagers have been languishing in utter poverty, ignorance and superstition, weighed down but rarely cared for by a top-heavy, centralised administration which by its very nature permitted little scope for local initiative. The sudden impact of western mass—production system has shattered the village economy and the villagers have been cut away from their ancient moorings hoary with the glorious traditions stretching back to thousands of years.

Today this huge, amorphous mass we call the rural folk, enormous by the sheer weight of their numbers —they come to over 40 millions, out of a total population of 50 millions in this province and they live scattered in over 35,000 villages—form a dark and ominous cloud looming large on the horizon of our polity and economy, apparently indifferent to the red pageant of the Country's history, but in reality holding out a challenge to the popular Governments all over the land—a challenge the Governments dare not ignore.

The Government of Madras have taken up the challenge and intend removing the threat—the threat of half-starving, withering millions. The Government are convinced that if ever we are to be a full-blooded people, these drooping villages must be revived: Villages or groups of villages must be put back on the map as more or less independent units, self-sufficient and self-directing.

This is the idea behind the Government's sweeping plan for rural reconstruction. The plan for the time being envisages the creation of 25 self-sufficient firkas, one in each of the 24 mofussil districts except Vizagapatam which because of its big size will provide two. When the plan will have been completed, it is expected, these firkas will be self-sufficient in all the normal needs of the villager. The creation of pockets of self-sufficient firkas in the various districts is only the first step; they are the spearhead, as it were, of the new movement which has for its final goal village republics of the type which flourished in India till some decades back.

Cottage industries or village industries are but one item in the comprehensive plan for rural uplift. It is true that this is not the first time that the Madras Government have directed their attention towards resuscitating the village industries. But what few steps have been taken to improve cottage industries have not proved particularly fruitful since, in the words of Mr. Prakasam, "no attempt was made to relate the plans for the rehabilitation of cottage industries to a pre-determined objective. Failure was inevitable when the whole approach to the question was fundamentally wrong".

The present Government take their stand on the principle that as far as possible each village or group of villages should be made into a more or less balanced and complete economic unit. It follows that the village industries and the craftsmen engaged in these industries are regarded as an integral part of the village community.

One of the essential needs of the villages at all times, and more particularly today, is cloth. A scheme for the production of Khadi in selected firkas has already been formulated by the Government. (See the article on Khadi scheme) Similar blue prints are not ready yet for other cottage industries. It will take some time to draw up a complete scheme for these other industries as conditions vary from village to village and what is suitable for one village may not be suitable for another.

However, a rapid survey of the present condition of cottage industries has just been completed in the 25 firkas selected for reconstruction work. A study of the data collected shows that there are as many 84 cottage industries in these firkas. These cottage industries are not developed on any uniform basis in the different areas. In a few firkas some of the cottage industries are conspicuous by their absence; in others they occupy an important place in the rural economy of the particular area.

On the basis of the information collected so far, six industries have been chosen, to begin with, in each firka, and the Government have decided to devote special attention to their development. Of these industries some are already in existence, while others are new to the area concerned. There are, of course, certain basic needs which have to be satisfied in every village. Cloth is one: carpentry, blacksmithy, and pottery are others. These trades will therefore receive universal attention. As for others, one guiding principle is that, wherever there is a tradition for hereditary skill in any particular industry, attempts will be made to develop that industry in that area. Training units will be established in four to six places in each firka to train local workers in up-to-date methods of manufacture on a cottage industry basis. There will be in all some 150 Demonstration Units working in different parts of the Presidency, covering as many as 30 cottage industries.

Moreover, arrangements will be made for the supply of raw materials and for the marketing of the products through co-operative societies, emporia attached to indus-

trial museums, etc. The responsibility for procuring materials and finding a market will be cast on a central organisation with headquarters in Madras. As the artisans will be relieved of the responsibility of finding a market for their wares, it is expected that they will work with enthusiasm and that every village in course of time will be a humming unit of indigenous industry untainted by the smoke and din of gigantic factories.

It is interesting at this stage to peep into the future for a second and visualise the picture of the cottage industries as they will be after they are modernised. Take for instance the village blacksmith. There he stands under the spreading banian tree (or, is it the margosa tree?) His work does not provide him with occupation for more than a few hours every week, and he is practically idle during the rainy season. The Government's new drive is to give this man a workshop equipped with the latest implements and tools. If such equipments are given he will not only be repairing axles and tyres, but will also be turning a precision lathe, casting from a mould and making utensils from sheets of metals. And then it will be time enough to open in a few selected villages in each firka a second workshop where provision will be made for the training of young men in smithy, metal-casting, welding, image-making, etc., etc. It is wrong to think that village industries do not admit of labour-saving devices. On the other hand they welcome such devices upto a limit. The fact is village industries are averse only to those labour saving devices that will eliminate the labourer and make the villages deserted.

In the upsurge of modernism we in India should not forget one thing. The problem before India is not just how to increase the volume of production: the problem is also how to provide work to the millions who are unemployed or under-employed. But a discussion of these points and the general theory of cottage industries will take us far afield. Such a discussion is reserved for a future occasion.

# N.-G. O'.S WITHDRAW STRIKE NOTICE

Following an interview between the Hon'ble the Premier and the office-bearers of the Non-gazetted Officers' Association on September 30, 1946, the latter have withdrawn their strike notice. In return the Government have restored recognition to the N. G. O.'s Association and have dropped all disciplinary action against the office-bearers. It is understood that the Premier has agreed to consider all the demands of the N. G. O.'s sympathetically.

# NO NEW TEXTILE MILLS IN MADRAS

## PREMIER ANNOUNCES GOVT.'S POLICY

**Inaugurating the Khadi and Rural Reconstruction Scheme at Erragondapalem and Guruvareddipalem, the Premier made an important announcement about Government's policy with regard to the starting of new textile mills in the province. He said:**

*"The Government are launching the Khadi programme of theirs with complete faith in its efficacy as a beneficial scheme for our people, and confidence as to its success, if given a trial under fair conditions. They must therefore take steps to remove all the handicaps in the way. It has accordingly been decided not to allow any new cotton textile mills to be set up in this Province; even expansion of the existing mills will not be permitted, and the Central Government will be informed that the allotment of spindles and looms made to this Province under the Post-War Plan may be cancelled."*

# MADRAS GOVT.'S KHADI SCHEME

## Rs. 2 MILLION ESTIMATED FOR 1946-'47

## VILLAGES TO BE MADE SELF-SUFFICIENT

*"Now that we are in office in the provinces and at the Centre, it is our bounden duty to encourage khadi and village industries," said Mr. T. Prakasam, Premier of Madras, addressing a prayer meeting at Sewagram on September 27.*

*"Mahatma Gandhi's constructive programme is bound to improve the future of the villagers by making them self-sufficient and economically independent so far as food and cloth are concerned," Mr. Prakasam added. "As a believer in village reconstruction, I, as Premier will do whatever is possible to give an impetus to khadi and other village industries and basic education which are inter-related.*

*"With Gandhiji's blessings and the co-operation of the people, the Madras Ministry hopes to march forward to success in this direction".*

With the advent of the Gandhian era in Indian politics about a quarter of a century ago, the development of village industries, otherwise styled as cottage industries, began to take some definite shape. It was Gandhiji's earnest intention to make the manufacture and spread of khadi an integral part of the development of cottage industries. When he found later that development of cottage industries could not, for want of strong public opinion, make any headway, he switched his all-absorbing attention on to the production and popularisation of khadi. For some time past, next to Harijan uplift, khadi has been the very life breath of Gandhiji

*Self-Sufficient Villages*

The khadi scheme of the Government of Madras is a vital and fundamental part of their comprehensive plan to make the villages of the Province self-sufficient economic units. Since the hereditary craftsmen like hand-spinners and hand-weavers have been, and are being, drawn, with the advent of the era of machinery, into towns and cities in search of employment in textile mills, the old village organisation in hand-spinning and hand-weaving has been completely dislocated. It is the intention of the Government, with the co-operation of the public, to revitalise the village life and economics and restore them to their glorious past. And to this end the production on a fairly large scale of khadi will, in the opinion of the Government, contribute in no small measure.

*Intensive and Extensive Aspects*

The khadi scheme has two aspects —intensive and extensive. The extensive part will, for the present, be tried in all the 25 firkas selected already by the Government for rural uplift work. Free instruction in hand-spinning, weaving and anterior processes will be arranged. Adult spinning and weaving schools will be organised and basic education will be introduced in many centres. Self-spinners will also be enlisted.

The Government will give assistance to institutions working for the spread of khadi in the shape of local manufacture of charkas, other khadi implements, supply of wood and cotton against payment of full value.

The intensive part of the scheme aims at self-sufficiency in cloth in terms of khadi and will be confined to seven selected centres in which the khadi ideal has already spread. The work in these areas will be conducted on the diirect responsibility of the Government as set out below. The seven selected centres are the folowing:—

**TAMIL NAD**

(1) Vellakoil.

(2) Avanasi.

(3) Puliyankurichi.

**ANDHRA DESA**

(4) Tuni (Urutta *cum* Tuni).

(5) Guruvareddipalem.

(6) Erragondapalem.

**WEST-COAST**

(7) Payyanur *cum* Nileshwar.

The total population of these 7 centres is 2,88,000.

For the purpose of effective working of the scheme, the Government will take over the All-India Spinners' Association's assets and liabilities at each centre as at the date of transfer.

**ENOUGH FOR ALL**

The immediate objective of the scheme is to arrange to produce in the selected centres sufficient khadi for the entire population at the

rate of 20 yards per adult and 10 yards per child per annum.

The scheme will be executed, by village and centre khadi committees, consisting entirely of non-officials, who are picked khadi enthusiasts.

They will of course work under the supervision of the All-India Spinners' Association.

**HOUSE-TO-HOUSE PROPAGANDA**

One of the functions of the centre and village committees will be to do house-to-house propaganda for the success of the scheme in the respective villages. It will also be their duty to create a strong opinion among handloom weavers in the centre against the use of mill yarn.

The All-India Spinners' Association will make arrangements for the training of workers at Government expense.

**CONCESSION TO HARIJANS**

The Government will, as far as possible, assist the local committees in the supply at cost price of locally manufactured charkas, and carding and slivering equipments.

From Harijans and *bona fide* poor persons the price will be recovered in 12 monthly instalments.

The spinners will have to grow their own cotton and attend to ginning, carding and slivering themselves. The Government will assist where the spinners are unable to make their own arrangements.

**EVERY FAMILY TO WEAVE ITS CLOTH**

Every family will be encouraged to use the yarn spun by its members for the production of khadi for its consumption.

All cloth not so used will be sold to the families living in the centre by the Centre Khadi Officer at prices fixed by the Provincial Textile Commissioner.

**SUBSIDY BY THE GOVERNMENT**

A subsidy at a flat rate of 0—4—0 per yard will be given by the Centre Khadi Officer on the quantity of khadi woven by the applicants' family out of yarn spun by its members.

**SUPERVISION**

The Provincial Textile Commissioner will, in consultation with the Regional Khadi Officers (the local branch secretaries of the All-India Spinners' Association), exercise financial and administrative supervision over the entire scheme.

**EXPENDITURE ON INTENSIVE KHADI SCHEME**

The expenditure on intensive khadi scheme is estimated at Rs. 23,44,805 for 1946-47 & Rs. 93,90,026 for 1947-48. This expenditure covers, among others, the cost of charkas, spindles, cotton, weavers' wages, staff, training of weavers and spinners, and furniture.

The cost of special training classes is estimated at Rs. 1,00,679 for 1946-47 and Rs. 2,31,335 for 1947-48.

Full khadi production will be reached in all the centres in 1948-49, when the total expenditure will be about Rs. one crore. All expenditure will be recovered except that spent on training courses and subsidy.

**RECEIPTS**

The receipts by way of sale of charkas, implements, cotton, slivering charges, cloth and weaving charges are estimated at Rs. 14,41,947 for are estimated at Rs. 62,99,629 for 1947-48.

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# INTERIM GOVT. ISSUE ORDINANCES

Five Ordinances (Nos. XVIII to XXII of 1946) have been promulgated in a Gazette of India Extraordinary issued on September 25.

The new Ordinances (Nos. XVIII to XXII of 1946) provide for (A) the continuance, during a limited period, of powers to control the production, supply and distribution of, and trade and commerce in, certain essential commodities, including foodstuffs, textiles, paper, coal, iron and steel. (B) for the continuance of certain emergency powers in relation to lands and buildings which are under requisition including the power to acquire room for public purposes; (C) the continuance of certain provisions of the Defence of India Act of 1939 and the Defence of India Rules; (D) the extension of the life of the Foreigners Act of 1940 until March 25, 1947; and (E) the constitution of a special police force for the Chief Commissioner's province of Delhi for the investigation of certain offences committed in connection with matters concerning departments of the Central Government.

The objects of the first three Ordinances were explained in a Press Note issued by the Legislative Department on September 14, 1946.

The present Foreigners Act of 1940 is due to expire on September 30, 1946. It is proposed to replace this Act by a permanent measure and a bill is under preparation for submission to the Legislature. In the meantime to cover the intervening period, Ordinance XXII entitled the Foreigners Act (Amendment) Ordinance, 1946, has been issued extending the life of the present Act upto March 25, 1947.

# DRINK AND PROHIBITION

:o:

## THE TEN COMMANDMENTS

(1) *Drink is a ruinous evil.*

(2) *It is against the tenets of all religions.*

(3) *It impairs physical efficiency and reduces longevity generally.*

(4) *It plunges addicts into debts, misery and domestic unhappiness.*

(5) *It destroys social harmony and kills initiative and enterprise.*

(6) *It lowers addicts in the estimation of others.*

(7) *It spoils the coming generation by bad example and unwholesome environments.*

(8) *Prohibition is in accordance with the tenets of all religions.*

(9) *It is conducive to social harmony and domestic happiness and assists in the promotion of national welfare.*

(10) *It prevents the social and economic degeneration of the future generation.*

### *SUPPORT PROHIBITION*

***It is your duty to yourself, to your family, to your religion and to your country.***

ASSOCIATED PRINTERS, MADRAS.

# WHO IS WHO IN MADRAS CABINET

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| The Hon. Sri | T. PRAKASAM .. | *The Premier (Home & Public).* |
| „ „ | V. V. GIRI .. | *Labour & Industries.* |
| „ „ | RUKMINI LAKSHMI-PATHY .. | *Public Health.* |
| „ „ | K. BHASHYAM .. | *Courts & Prisons.* |
| „ „ | K. KOTI REDDI .. | *Hindu Religious Endowments.* |
| „ „ | DANIEL THOMAS .. | *Local Administration.* |
| „ „ | K. R. KARANT .. | *Revenue.* |
| „ „ | M. BHAKTHAVATSALAM | *Public Works.* |
| „ „ | P. S. KUMARASWAMI RAJA .. | *Agriculture.* |
| „ „ | T. S. AVINASILINGAM CHETTIAR .. | *Education.* |
| „ „ | V. KURMAYYA ... | *Information & Harijan Uplift.* |
| „ „ | B. VEERASAMY ... | *Forests.* |
| „ „ | R. RAGHAVA MENON .. | *Food & Motor Transport.* |